

Two Killed In Idris, Audu's Supporters Clash

• Many Others Wounded

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The lingering political face-off between the Governor of Kogi State, Ibrahim Idris, and his immediate predecessor, Abubakar Audu, on Monday led to bloodbath, leaving two dead and several others wounded.

It was during this year's "Italo," the socio-cultural festival of the Igala people in the university town of Anyigba.

The festival ended in chaos

as thugs hijacked the event, turning it to a battle ground that sent both the paramount ruler of the kingdom, Dr. Aliyu Obaje, and other dignitaries scampering for safety.

This is the first public clash between Idris and Audu's supporters since the annulment of last April governorship election in the state by the Election Petitions Tribunal in October last year.

Trouble was said to have started when the governor arrived the venue.

The governor's security details used their van to block the entrance into the venue immediately the governor took his seat.

This development was said to have prevented other dignitaries, especially Audu and his entourage from gaining access into the venue.

Several suspected political thugs then shot sporadically into the air both inside and outside the stadium to scare away supporters of Audu at the gate.

The shooting was said to have lasted several minutes until police intervened.

Audu was forced to turn

back while the dignitaries inside the stadium took to their heels in different directions.

All the routes leading to the stadium were said to have been barricaded by the thugs allegedly recruited from the 21 local government areas of the state.

At the end of it all, two persons laid dead in a pool of their own blood while many others sustained serious injuries.

Several vehicles were said to have been damaged in the process.

Among dignitaries in the stadium were the Minister of State for Health, Gabriel Adukwu, Nicholas Yahaya Ugbani, a Senator, and the Speaker Kogi State House of Assembly, Clarence Olafemi.